

management practices. These responsibilities include assessing resource use and trends, monitoring compliance with existing laws and regulations, and developing new laws and regulations to further protect the environment. The software needed to support their needs includes the ability to manage, query, model, and display spatial data related to the natural resources in the watersheds of the estuaries. Detailed characteristics of each resource management organization are given in the following paragraphs.

2.2.1.1 State Government Agencies

2.2.1.1.1 Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources (Policy Committee and Technical Committee)

The North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources (DEHNR) is the lead state agency for the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study and administers the state cost share funds for the study.

2.2.1.1.1.1 Division of Coastal Management (Technical Committee, Third Year Technical Project)

The Division is responsible for implementing a plan for the protection, preservation, orderly development, and management of the coastal area of North Carolina. The Division provides staff support to the Coastal Resources Commission, which administers the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA). The Division processes major development permits; prepares guidelines for a local land use planning program in the CAMA counties; administers grants to local government for planning, permitting, and beach access programs; and acquires and manages coastal and estuarine reserves as natural areas for research, education, and preservation.

2.2.1.1.1.2 Division of Environmental Health

This Division is concerned with activities relevant to environmental health issues. Staff from the Environmental Health Services Section (Shellfish Sanitation Branch) and the Public Water Supply Section were interviewed.

The Shellfish Sanitation Branch is responsible for protecting the public health of the consumers of oysters, clams, scallops, and crustacean meat. The program personnel conduct sanitary surveys of shellfish growing waters to determine which areas are safe for harvest of shellfish for raw consumption by humans and inspect shellfish, scallop, and crustacean processing plants to certify compliance with sanitary requirements.

The Public Water Supply Section is the lead state office in implementing and enforcing state laws and Commission of Health Services rules pertaining to the surveillance, operation, and maintenance of public water supplies. The Public Water Supply Section is also responsible for implementing the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.